

Kentucky Commission on Women

Taking Women Further

History and Goals

In response to President John F. Kennedy's creation of a commission on the Status of Women, Governor Edward T. Breathitt established a state commission in April 1964, to study and report on the status of Kentucky women. The findings demonstrated a pronounced need for a permanent agency to promote the improvement of women's status, and in November 1968, Governor Louie Nunn signed the executive order establishing the Kentucky Commission on Women (KCW). In 1970, KCW became an official state agency through legislative action. KCW became part of the Cabinet for General Government as an administrative body attached to the Governor's Office in 1980. KCW has a board membership comprised of First Lady Glenna Fletcher, the Lieutenant Governor, and not more than an additional 25 members including the chairperson.

KCW is mandated to:

- I. Promote, encourage, and provide advisory assistance in the establishment of local volunteer community improvement programs for, and of interest to, women;
- II. Conduct programs, studies, seminars, and conferences, and encourage state and local women's business, professional, and civic organizations to do likewise, to educate the public to the problems of women;
- III. Consult with and advise the Governor and the agencies, departments, boards, and commissions of the state and local and municipal governments on matters pertaining to women; and
- IV. Cooperate with the federal government and with the governments of other states in programs relating to women.

Clearing House for Information and Referrals

KCW staff maintains and provides, upon request, up-to-date information about a variety of issues affecting women. KCW assists women who call seeking information about where to go for services available to them in Kentucky.

KCW distributes a newsletter to over 6000 individuals and organizations throughout the state. To encourage women's participation in leadership roles, KCW publishes a directory of state boards and commissions, which provides pertinent information about each board and commission, and includes the required application. KCW maintains a Web site that is a growing source of information for Kentucky women and moderates the Kentuckywomen List listserv with over 900 members. To subscribe to the Kentuckywomen List, visit our Web site at www.women.ky.gov.

Your Advocate in Frankfort

During legislative sessions KCW tracks bills and maintains a Legislative Update on the KCW Web site. KCW has hosted events in the Capitol to educate women about how to be more effective lobbyists.

Special Programs and Projects

Our Legacy, Our Future

KCW worked in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education's Division of Equity and Kentucky Educational Television to develop a four-part education packet to increase interest in the history of Kentucky women, particularly in the area of public service. Visit www.womeninkentucky.com to learn more.

Kentucky Women Remembered

KCW maintains a watercolor exhibit located in the West Wing of the Capitol that consists of outstanding women in Kentucky's past and present. Each year, through a nomination process portraits are added to this exhibit.

The Governor's Task Force on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women

Appointed in November of 2001, this Task Force, managed by KCW, studies the challenges and resources that exist for Kentucky women. The final report of the Task Force was released at the **Summit on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women**, June 20-21, 2003, and is available on the KCW Web site or by calling the KCW office. KCW is looking forward to a follow-up to the Summit in 2005.

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